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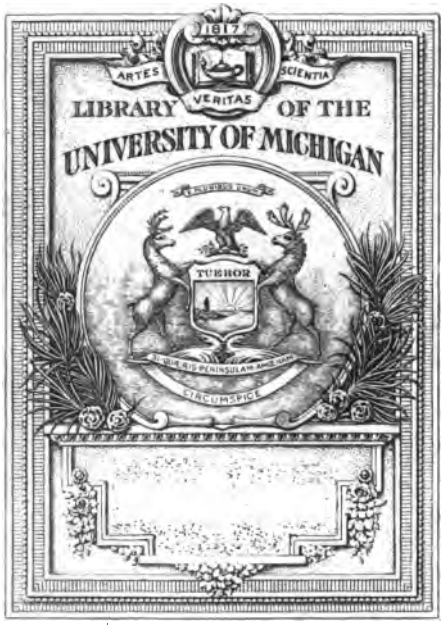
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A

SCRIPTURE CATECHISM,

CONSISTING OF

A Series of QUESTIONS, with References to the *Scriptures* inſtead of ANSWERS.

BY JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, LL.D. F.R.S.

THE THIRD EDITION.

From a Child thou haſt known the Holy Scriptures.
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THE

PREFACE.

ST. Paul mentions it as a great advantage to Timothy, and a ſubject of great commendation to his parents, that *from a child he had known the holy ſcriptures*; *which*, he ſays, *were able to make him wiſe unto ſalvation*. 2 Tim. iii. 15. By the ſcriptures the apoſtle muſt have meant the books of the *Old Teſtament*; but the collection is now rendered much more valuable by the addition of thoſe of the *New*. Since theſe ineſtimable writings are *profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for inſtruction in righteouſneſs*, and are calculated to make men *perfect, thoroughly furniſhed unto all good works*. ver. 16, 17, it muſt be a matter of the greateſt importance that young perſons be inſtructed in the knowledge of them; and this courſe of inſtruction, in order to be effectual, cannot be begun too early.

The ſooner the mind is impreſſed with juſt maxims of conduct, with a ſenſe of

the divine authority, the hope of his favour, and the fear of his diſpleaſure; the ſooner a perſon is made ſenſible of the charms of good example, and filled with abhorrence by a view of what is odious and contemptible in human characters (and for all theſe purpoſes the books of ſcripture are moſt excellent) the more probable it is that the effect will be laſting and happy. This courſe of inſtruction, I know by experience, may be begun, and carried on with ſucceſs, as ſoon as a child is capable of any kind of oral inſtruction whatever; and none but thoſe who have made the trial can imagine, with how much pleaſure children will liſten to the moſt inſtructive ſcripture hiſtories, and how ſoon they will enter into the meaning and ſpirit of them.

But the following catechiſm is not deſigned for the uſe of young children. Theſe muſt be taught without a book, by the parent telling them the ſtories in the moſt familiar manner, ſelecting the moſt important and engaging circumſtances, and making them tell the particulars in their own way after him. But as ſoon as perſons are capable of reading the bible with underſtanding, I think it may be ſufficient

ficient to propoſe to them ſuch queſtions as I have here drawn up, and to refer them to the ſcriptures themſelves for the anſwers. I do not, indeed, think that it can be reaſonably expected that a perſon ſhould be able to prepare tolerably judicious anſwers to *ſome* of the queſtions in this catechiſm, under ſixteen or eighteen years of age; but there are others which will not be too difficult for thoſe who are but nine or ten years old; ſo that with a little judgment in the uſe of it, this collection of queſtions may be uſeful in the inſtruction of young perſons of any age. Upon the whole, however, I would adviſe, that this catechiſm be taught to a claſs of perſons not quite ſo young as thoſe for whoſe uſe my other catechiſm, and eſpecially the firſt part of it, was particularly calculated.

The queſtions in this catechiſm are chiefly *hiſtorical*, becauſe this part of the bible may be moſt conveniently taught in this manner; and that young perſons may have a clearer idea of the order of events, I have collected the hiſtory of the kings of Judea and Iſrael from the *Prophets*, as well as from the books of *Kings* and *Chronicles*; reſerving only a few miſcellaneous pro-

phecies for a ſeparate ſection. I have alſo reduced the four evangeliſts into a harmony, and have referred to all the different accounts of the ſame ſtory. Thoſe who have made a greater proficiency in the knowledge of the ſcriptures may be required to compare them, and note the variations.

On the books of Proverbs, Pſalms, Eccleſiaſtes, and other books, and parts of books, which are not hiſtorical, I have made but few queſtions. Theſe books can only be recommended in general to the attention and ſtudy of young perſons; or particular parts of them may be committed to memory. Other books of ſcripture, eſpecially the prophetical, and ſome of the apoſtolical epiſtles, can hardly be well underſtood, except by perſons of riper years. For this reaſon I have been very ſparing of the queſtions which refer to them.

In many caſes, I am aware, that it will be neceſſary to divide theſe queſtions into various others, and alſo to diverſify the form of expreſſion, in order to lead thoſe who are leſs experienced to the proper anſwers; but a very ſmall degree of judgment

ment and addreſs will be ſufficient for this purpoſe.

It will be a conſiderable advantage attending this method of inſtruction, that by it young perſons will be introduced to an acquaintance with *the ſcriptures themſelves*, which will give them the trueſt idea of their contents and value. No anſwers framed to their hands could poſſibly effect this great and good purpoſe. If the anſwers to catechiſms be given in the very words of ſcripture, yet the connection in which ſuch ſentences are introduced, and conſequently much of the peculiar propriety and force of them, is neceſſarily loſt. Beſides, catechiſms, upon this plan, cannot well compriſe more than the *moral maxims* of ſcripture, ſo that the *hiſtorical*, which is, in fact, the moſt uſeful part to young perſons, muſt be omitted.

I hope alſo that thoſe parents who have the true wiſdom to ſee it to be a duty incumbent upon themſelves to ſuperintend the religious inſtruction of their children, and who will not refuſe to take ſome pains for ſo valuable a purpoſe, will not be diſpleaſed with the opportunity which this ſcheme of a catechiſm will afford them, of renewing and perfecting their own ac-

quaintance with the hiſtory of the bible. Indeed it cannot be ſuppoſed that the moſt knowing in the ſcriptures ſhould be able to make uſe of ſuch a catechiſm as this, in the inſtruction of his children, without ſome previous preparation; ſo that no perſon need to be aſhamed, if it appear that he himſelf has ſomething to learn in this buſineſs, as well as his child. But I hope that few of thoſe who will make any inquiry after this catechiſm, will object to it, becauſe it is calculated to give themſelves as well as their children, a more perfect knowledge of important facts and truths.

A SCRIP-

A

SCRIPTURE CATECHISM.

GENESIS.

IN how many days did God create the heavens and the earth? i.

What was the work of each of the ſix days? i.

What was the reaſon of the inſtitution of the ſabbath? ii. 2, 3. Exod. xx. 11.

On what account were Adam and Eve caſt out of the garden of Eden? iii.

Recite the hiſtory of Cain and Abel, iv.

What was the cauſe of the general deluge, and who ſurvived it? vi, vii, viii.

What token did God give that the earth ſhould be no more deſtroyed by a flood? ix. 12.

What ſin was Noah guilty of? ix. 21.

What occaſioned the diſperſion of mankind over the face of the earth? xi. 1—9.

Of what country was Abraham a native; and on what account did he leave it to dwell in the land of Canaan? xi. 31. xii. 1—10.

What promiſe did God make to Abraham when he firſt called him, and which he repeated afterwards? xii. 2, 3. xviii. 18. xxii. 17, 18.

What ſervice did Abraham render to Lot? xiv.

Recite the hiſtory of the birth of Iſhmael, xvi.

On what account, and in what manner were Sodom and Gomorrah deſtroyed? xviii. xix.

What was there extraordinary in the birth of Iſaac? xvii. 16—22. xxi. 1—8.

What became of Iſhmael after the birth of Iſaac? xxi. 9—21.

How did God try the obedience of Abraham, with reſpect to his ſon Iſaac? xxii. 1—19.

How did Abraham procure a wife for his ſon Iſaac? xxiv.

What children had Iſaac, and what were their different characters? xxv. 19—28.

In what manner did Jacob deprive Eſau of

of his birthright? xxv. 29—34. xxvii. 1—40.

Whither did Jacob flee from the anger of his brother Eſau? xxvii. 43. xxviii. 5.

What wives and children had Jacob? xxix. 15—35. xxx. 1—25.

On what account did Jacob leave Laban? xxxi.

How was Jacob received by his brother Eſau? xxxii. xxxiii.

Of what crime were Simeon and Levi guilty, with reſpect to the Shechemites? xxxiv.

How came Joſeph to go into Egypt? xxxvii.

On what account was he caſt into priſon? xxxix.

On what occaſion was he introduced to Pharaoh? xl. xli. 1—49.

What brought Jacob and his other ſons into Egypt? xlii—xlvi.

EXODUS.

HOW were the children of Iſrael treated in Egypt, after the death of Joſeph? i.

Relate the hiſtory of the birth of Moſes, and of his flight from Egypt, ii.

How came Moſes to undertake to deliver the Iſraelites from their bondage in Egypt? iii.

What miracle did Moſes work, in order to prove that God ſent him, and what effect had it on Pharaoh? vii. 1—13.

What were the plagues with which God afflicted Egypt, and eſpecially that which induced Pharaoh to permit the Iſraelites to go out of his country? vii. 14. viii.—xii.

What was the original and meaning of the paſſover? xii. 1—31.

What great calamity befel the Egyptians, at the time that the Iſraelites left their country? xiv.

What miracle was performed at Marah? xv. 23, to the end.

What was the chief food of the Iſraelites in their travelling through the wilderneſs? xvi.

How were they ſupplied with water at Mount Horeb? xvii. 1—7.

By what means did the Iſraelites prevail over the Amalekites? xvii. 8, to the end.

What advice did Jethro give to Moſes? xviii.

What

What extraordinary appearances were there at Mount Sinai? xix.

Repeat the ten commandments which God ſpake from thence, xx. 1—17.

Of what crime were the Iſraelites guilty in the abſence of Moſes, and what were the conſequences of it? xxxii.

LEVITICUS.

WHAT was the crime and puniſhment of Nadab and Abihu? x. 1—12.

What was done to the perſon who curſed and blaſphemed God? xxiv. 10, to the end.

NUMBERS.

HOW were the children of Iſrael directed in their march through the wilderneſs? ix. 15, to the end.

What was the conſequence of the Iſraelites loathing manna, and longing for fleſh meat? xi.

What was the offence of Aaron and Miriam, and the conſequence of it? xii.

What happened upon ſending the ſpies to diſcover the land of Canaan? xiii. xiv.

What

What was the offence and the puniſhment of Corah, Dathan and Abiram? xvi. xvii.

Recite the hiſtory of the fiery ſerpents. xxi. 4—9.

Who were the firſt kings that the Iſraelites conquered? xxi. 21, to the end.

Recite the hiſtory of Balak and Balaam. xxii.—xxiv.

Into what wickedneſs did the Moabites tempt the children of Iſrael, and what was the iſſue of it? xxv.

What was the fate of the Midianites? xxxi. 1—20.

DEUTERONOMY.

IN what manner were the children of Iſrael to treat the idolatrous inhabitants of Canaan? vii. 1—3.

For what reaſon were they ordered to exterminate them? vii. 4—11.

In what were the Iſraelites to be particularly careful to inſtruct their children? xi. 18—21.

In what manner were the Iſraelites to treat other nations, with whom they might be at war, beſides the inhabitants of Canaan? xx. 10—15.

Who

Who ſucceeded Moſes in the conduct of the Iſraelites? xxxi. 3.

JOSHUA.

RECITE the hiſtory of the ſpies, whom Joſhua ſent to examine the condition of Jericho. ii.

In what manner did the Iſraelites croſs the river Jordan? iii. iv.

In what manner did they get poſſeſſion of Jericho? vi.

How did they take Ai, and what followed upon it? vii, viii.

How did the Gibeonites deceive the Iſraelites? ix.

In what manner were the five kings that warred againſt Gibeon defeated? x. 1—28.

How many kings did Joſhua take after the Iſraelites had croſſed the river Jordan? xii.

Did the Iſraelites under Joſhua conquer all the land of Canaan? xiii. 1—13. xv. 63. xvi. 10.

In what part of the land of Canaan was the tabernacle ſet up? xviii. 1.

In what place, and at what time was Joſeph buried? xxiv. 32.

JUDGES.

JUDGES.

HOW was Adonibezec requited? i. 5—7.

What was the conſequence of the Iſraelites having a communication with the idolatrous nations that were not conquered? iii. 5—7.

In what manner did God puniſh their idolatry? iii. 8.

Who delivered them from the king of Meſopotamia? iii. 9—11.

What were the circumſtances which attended their deliverance from the power of Eglon king of Moab, when they had relapſed into idolatry? iii. 12—30.

Recite the hiſtory of Deborah and Barak. iv.

Recite the hiſtory of Gideon and the Midianites, vi. vii. viii.

What was the hiſtory and fate of Abimelech? ix.

What raſh vow did Jephtha make, and into what difficulties did he bring himſelf in conſequence of it? xi. 29, to the end.

Relate the hiſtory of the birth of Samſon. xiii.

What was Sampſon's riddle, and what were the occaſion and iſſue of it? xiv.

In

In what manner did Sampſon revenge himſelf of the Philiſtines, for taking his wife from him? xv.

What exploits did Sampſon perform at Gaza? xvi. 1—3.

Who betrayed Sampſon into the hands of the Philiſtines, and what were the circumſtances that attended his death? xvi.

Relate the ſtory of the great deſtruction of the Benjamites. xix—xxi.

RUTH.

WHO was Ruth, and how did ſhe come to reſide at Bethlehem? i.

To whom was Ruth married, and what remarkable perſon deſcended from her? iv.

1 SAMUEL.

RELATE the hiſtory of the birth of Samuel. i.

What judgment was inflicted upon the houſe of Eli, and what was the reaſon of it? ii. iii.

What calamitous events preceded the death of Eli? iv.

How

How did the Philiſtines diſpoſe of the ark, and what induced them to ſend it back again? v. vi.

For what reaſon did the Iſraelites deſire to be governed by a king? iii.

In what manner was Saul choſen king? ix. x.

What offence was Saul guilty of when he went to fight againſt the Philiſtines? xiii.

What great exploit did Jonathan perform in this war, and what danger was he brought into by the imprudence of his Father? xiv.

What offence was Saul guilty of with reſpect to the Amalekites? xv.

In what manner was David choſen king? xvi.

Recite the hiſtory of David and Goliath. xvii.

What was the cauſe of the hatred that Saul bore to David, and what were the effects of it? xviii.

What friendſhip did Jonathan and Michal ſhew to David? xix. xx.

Whither did David flee from Saul? xxi. 10, to the end.

What did Saul do to the prieſts when he ſuſpected them to be in the intereſt of David? xxii.

How

How did David ſpare Saul in the cave of Engedi? xxiv.

Recite the hiſtory of David and Abigail. xxv.

How did David ſpare Saul a ſecond time at Hachilah? xxvi.

Recite the hiſtory of the death of Saul and Jonathan. xxviii. xxxi.

2 SAMUEL.

HOW did David receive the news of the death of Saul and Jonathan? i.

Who ſucceeded Saul in oppoſition to David? ii. 8.

What was the fate of Abner, the general of Saul and Iſhboſheth? iii.

What became of Iſhboſheth? iv.

What place did David conquer, and fix upon for his reſidence? v. 6—11. 1 Chron. xi. 4—10.

What nations did David conquer? viii. 1 Chron. xviii.

How did David behave towards Mephiboſheth? ix.

What crime was David guilty of on account of Bathſheba? xi.

In what manner did Nathan reprove David for his ſin? xii.

What

What was the crime and the fate of Amnon? xiii.

Recite the hiſtory of Abſalom. xv—xvii.

What was the conſequence of David's numbering Iſrael? xxiv. 1 Chron. xxi.

1 KINGS.

Who ſucceeded David in the kingdom of Iſrael? i.

What choice did Solomon make? iii. 1—16. 2 Chron. i. 7—13.

How did Solomon decide between the two harlots? iii. 16, to the end.

What things diſtinguiſhed Solomon and his reign? iv. 2 Chron. 1—13, to the end.

What great undertaking did Solomon execute, which had been intended by his father? v. vi.

What was the purport of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple? viii. 2 Chron. vi.

By what circumſtance did it appear that God approved of Solomon's building the temple? 2 Chron. v. 11, to the end.

Who came to viſit Solomon on account of his great wiſdom? x. 2 Chron. ix. 1—13.

Into

Into what ſins did Solomon fall in his old age? xi.

What occaſioned the revolt of the ten tribes from Rehoboam the ſon of Solomon? xii. 2 Chron. x.

What was the event of the war between Abijah and Jeroboam? 2 Chron. xiii.

Relate the hiſtory of the old prophet, who propheſied againſt the altar at Bethel. xiii.

What calamity befel the kingdom of Judah in the reign of Rehoboam? xiv. 25, to the end. 2 Chron. xii.

What was the character of Aſa's reign? xv. 8—25.

By what favourable events was the reign of Aſa diſtinguiſhed? 2 Chron. xiv. xv.

What connection had Jehoſaphat with Ahab, and what were the conſequences of it? 2 Chron. xviii.

What ſucceſs had Jehoſaphat in his wars with the Moabites and Ammonites? 2 Chron. xx.

What was the character of the reign of Ahab? xvi. 27—34.

How was Elijah maintained, when he fled from Ahab? xvii. 1—8.

What

What did Elijah do for the poor widow, who entertained him in time of the famine? xviii. 8. to the end.

What was the conſequence of Ahab's attempt to take Elijah? xviii. 17. to the end.

Relate the hiſtory of the ſiege of Samaria by Benhadad king of Syria. xx.

What injuſtice was Ahab guilty of, with reſpect to Naboth? xxi.

What were the circumſtances of the death of Ahab? xxii. 1—37.

What was the character of Jehoſaphat's reign? xxii. 41—50. 2 Chron. xvii.

2 KINGS.

HOW was Elijah defended againſt thoſe perſons whom Ahaziah ſent to apprehend him? i.

How was Elijah diſtinguiſhed at the cloſe of his life? ii. 1—12.

In what manner were the young perſons that mocked Eliſha puniſhed? ii. 23, to the end.

What bleſſing did God beſtow upon the widow who applied to Eliſha? iv. 1—8.

How did God bleſs the Shunamite who received Eliſha? iv. 8—38.

Recite

Recite the hiſtory of Naaman the Syrian and Gehazi. v.

Relate the particulars of the ſiege of Samaria in the time of Eliſha. vi. 8. to the end. vii.

What was the hiſtory of Hazael king of Syria? viii. 7—16.

What was the fate of Jezebel? ix. 30. to the end.

How did Jehu deſtroy the prieſts of Baal? x. 18—29.

How was Jehoaſh ſaved from his grandmother Athaliah? xi. 2 Chro. xxii. xxiii.

What did Eliſha propheſy to Jehoaſh, at the time of his death? xiii. 14—20.

What miracle was performed by the bones of Eliſha? xiii. 20—22.

What was the offence of king Uzziah? 2 Chro. xxvi. 16—22.

What was the character and hiſtory of the reign of Ahaz? xvi. 2 Chro. xxviii.

What was the concluſion of the kingdom of Iſrael? xvii.

What was the character, and what were the events of the reign of Hezekiah? xviii. —xx. 2 Chro. xxix.

What was the event of Sennacherib's invaſion of Judah? 2 Chro. xxxii. Iſa. xxxvi. xxxvii.

What was there remarkable in the ſickneſs and recovery of Hezekiah? Iſ. xxxviii.

How did Hezekiah behave to the ambaſſadors of the king of Babylon, and what followed upon it? Iſa. xxxix.

What was the character and fate of Manaſſeh? xxi. 1—23. 2 Chro. xxxiii. 1—20.

What was the character of Joſiah? xxii. 1—8. 2 Chro. xxxiv.

What happened with reſpect to the book of the law in his reign? xxii. 8—15. xxxiii. 1—4. 2 Chro. xxxiv. 14. to the end.

In what manner did Joſiah come to his death? xxiii. 26—31. 2 Chro. xxxv.

What calamity befel the kingdom of Judah in the reign of Jehoiakim? xxiv. 1—6. 2 Chro. xxxvi. 6—11.

How did king Jehoiakim behave with reſpect to the written prophecies of Jeremiah? Jer. xxxvi.

What did Jeremiah propheſy concerning the iſſue of the ſiege of Jeruſalem in the reign of Zedekiah? Jer. xxxvii.

What did Jeremiah propheſy concerning the return of the Jews from the Babyloniſh captivity, and alſo concerning the kingdom of Chriſt? Jer. xxiii. 1—8.

What was the fate of Zedekiah, and the end of the kingdom of Judah? xxiv. 17. to the end. xxv. 2 Chro. xxxvi. 11. to the end. Jer. xxxix. lii.

How long did Jeremiah propheſy that the Babyloniſh captivity would continue? Jer. xxv. 8—15. xxix. 10.

What evil befel Jeremiah for his perſevering to propheſy concerning the Babyloniſh captivity? Jer. xxxviii.

What became of Jeremiah after the taking of Jeruſalem? Jer. xl. 1—7.

What was the fate of Gedaliah, who was appointed governor of thoſe Jews who were not carried captive? Jer. xl. 7. to the end. xli. 1—11.

What part did Johanan act after the death of Gedaliah, and what advice did Jeremiah give him? Jer. xlii.

How did Johanan act, and what became of Jeremiah? Jer. xliii. 1—7.

DANIEL.

HOW did Daniel come into favour at the court of Babylon? i.

Recite the hiſtory of Nebuchadnezzar's firſt dream. ii.

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